

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 00003 031147Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 NSC-05 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 SS-15 /045 W

-----031152Z 054437 /14

P 031105Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2875

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UR, US (SVERDLIN, VLADIMIR)

SUBJ: ARREST OF SVERDLIN

REF: (A) STATE 312534, (B) LENINGRAD 2034

1. LENINGRAD REFUSENIK SOURCE HAS CONFIRMED BASIC INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL B WITH MINOR DIFFERENCES AND PROVIDED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

2. REFUSENIK SOURCE DIFFERS ON ACTUAL NUMBER OF BULLETS CONFISCATED (43 VERSUS 46) AND STATES THAT SVERDLIN WAS CHARGED UNDER ARTICLE 218(1) OF RSFSR CRIMINAL CODE RELATING TO ILLEGAL CARRYING, POSSESSION, MANUFACTURE OR SALE OF WEAPONS OR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES. ACCORDING TO OUR COPY OF CODE, CONVICTION UNDER THAT SECTION COULD BRING SENTENCE OF UP TO TWO YEARS IMPRISONMENT OR ONE YEAR CORRECTIVE LABOR, ALTHOUGH OUR SOURCE TALKED IN TERMS OF UP TO SEVEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR SVERDLIN.

3. CONCERNING BULLETS, OUR SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT MANY YEARS AGO (10 TO 15) SVERDLIN WAS SPORTSMAN AND, ALTHOUGH HE HAD LONG SINCE

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DISPOSED OF SPORTS-HUNTING PISTOL, HE STILL HAD SUPPLY OF BULLETS ON HAND. BULLETS WERE TURNED UP BY KGB IN SEARCH OF SVERDLIN'S APARTMENT IN AUGUST 1976. AS CONDITION OF HIS RELEASE, SVERDLIN WAS REQUIRED SIGN PLEDGE NOT LEAVE LENINGRAD WITHOUT PERMISSION.

4. COMMENT: OUR SOURCES SEEM SOMEWHAT BAFFLED BY REASON FOR SVERDLIN ARREST AT THIS TIME WHEN KGB HAS LONG SINCE HAD EVIDENCE ON HAND. SVERDLIN IS KNOWN TO BE RELATIVELY UNPOPULAR MEMBER OF JEWISH REFUSENIK COMMUNITY WHICH REMEMBERS, BUT CONSIDERS BEST FORGOTTEN, RIFT HE CAUSED IN LOCAL REFUSENIK COMMUNITY LAST SUMMER, AND HE IS EASY TARGET TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF. IN WAKE OF INTERNATIONAL FUROR CAUSED BY CLAMP DOWN ON JEWISH SYMPOSIUM IN MOSCOW, AND RELATIVELY UP BEAT MOOD IN REFUSENIK COMMUNITY AT YEAR'S END FOLLOWING SOVIET GRANTING OF EXIT PERMISSION IN NUMBER OF DIFFICULT CASES IN RECENT WEEKS AND MONTHS, KGB MAY SIMPLY HAVE WANTED TO MAKE THE POINT THAT THEY CONTINUE TO HOLD IMPORTANT TRUMP CARDS WHICH THEY CAN PLAY AT MOMENT OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING TO MAKE LIFE TOUGH FOR TROUBLE MAKERS. NEUBERT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMMUNITION, ARRESTS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 03-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LENING00003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770001-1083
Format: TEL
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770185/aaaacwol.tel
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SAS ID: 3673653
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARREST OF SVERDLIN
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UR, US, (SVERDLIN, VLADIMIR)
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